

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
Ag 84 PRO
cop. 2

494

Forests in Rural Areas Development

Jobs, Business and Industrial
Opportunities, Recreation . . .

Woodlands Offer Multiple Use
Benefits for All



Look at Your Forest Resources

Take a good look at that last two-by-four you bought. Do you know where it came from, how it came to be a two-by-four, and how it got to the lumber yard?

Chances are it came from a tree grown in a privately owned forest in rural America. If so, the tree was protected from fire, insects, and disease by the State Forester and his staff. It was felled, cut into logs and hauled to a saw-mill by rural people. Here, other rural people sawed the logs into lumber, including your two-by-four. The lumber was piled, unpiled, planed, piled again, and then loaded onto a railroad car or truck and hauled to the lumber yard. Your two-by-four passed through many hands and many machines before it reached you. On the way it provided jobs and income for many people. A piece of dimension stock, molding, or paneling would have passed through even more hands and machines and provided still more jobs and wages.

Economists estimate that timber increases in value about *25 times* between its worth in the standing tree and the value of the final product delivered to the ultimate consumer. This unusually large "multiplier effect" makes timber a powerful factor in the economy of rural communities in forested areas. The demands for timber products are expected to increase by 80 percent by the year 2000.

Wooded land is also a reservoir of other valuable natural resources—fish and game, clean water, medicinal herbs, edible nuts and fruits, outdoor recreation, and dozens of other income-producing items. So forest lands present an unusually broad resource base on which to expand the local economy.

Forest land resources, both public and private, should be given thorough consideration when the area economic development plan is prepared. Attention to all their multiple uses will help insure successful development.



Look for Industrial Opportunities

Direct and immediate benefits often come to a community from local wood-using industries which are supplied with raw materials from the vicinity. Such industries will keep a part of the 25-fold increase in value in the home community. The keys to success are sound financing, efficient management, products designed for customer demand, and imaginative and vigorous marketing.

Opportunities for developing wood-based industries in rural areas are as varied as the imaginations of the planners, and the resources of the region. Possibilities range from the production of excelsior and charcoal to the manufacture of furniture and clothes hangers.

Substantial amounts of the high-grade timber sought by large lumber industries are rare in regions of intermingled farm and woodland. New activities, therefore, must often concentrate on the lower grades and less desirable species of timber, or on local primary wood products that do not already have a good market. Ingenuity of the processor often will turn low-grade timber into valuable products.

For many communities, expansion and diversification of existing local wood industries may offer a better beginning than a completely new venture. In some communities, the best way to get coordinated management and use of the forest resources may be through a forestry cooperative. For additional information see "Forest Industry Opportunities in Rural Development," AIB-222, and "Public Assistance for Forestry Cooperatives," PA-751, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Look for Timber Culture Opportunities

Timber crops, like other agricultural crops, need care and attention. An unmanaged woodland, like an untended garden, may produce mostly weeds. But a woodland that has been pruned, thinned, weeded, and protected from fire, insects, and disease can produce continuous crops of readily marketable timber.

Intensive forest management measures such as tree planting and timber stand improvement increase the production of quality timber and bring greater financial returns to the landowner. Carrying out such measures provides immediate jobs for local people.

Skilled contract crews, properly equipped, often can do this work more efficiently and more cheaply than the landowner himself. Such work provides employment in many rural communities.

Proper attention to timber culture now will assure a perpetual supply of timber for local and regional wood-using industries.

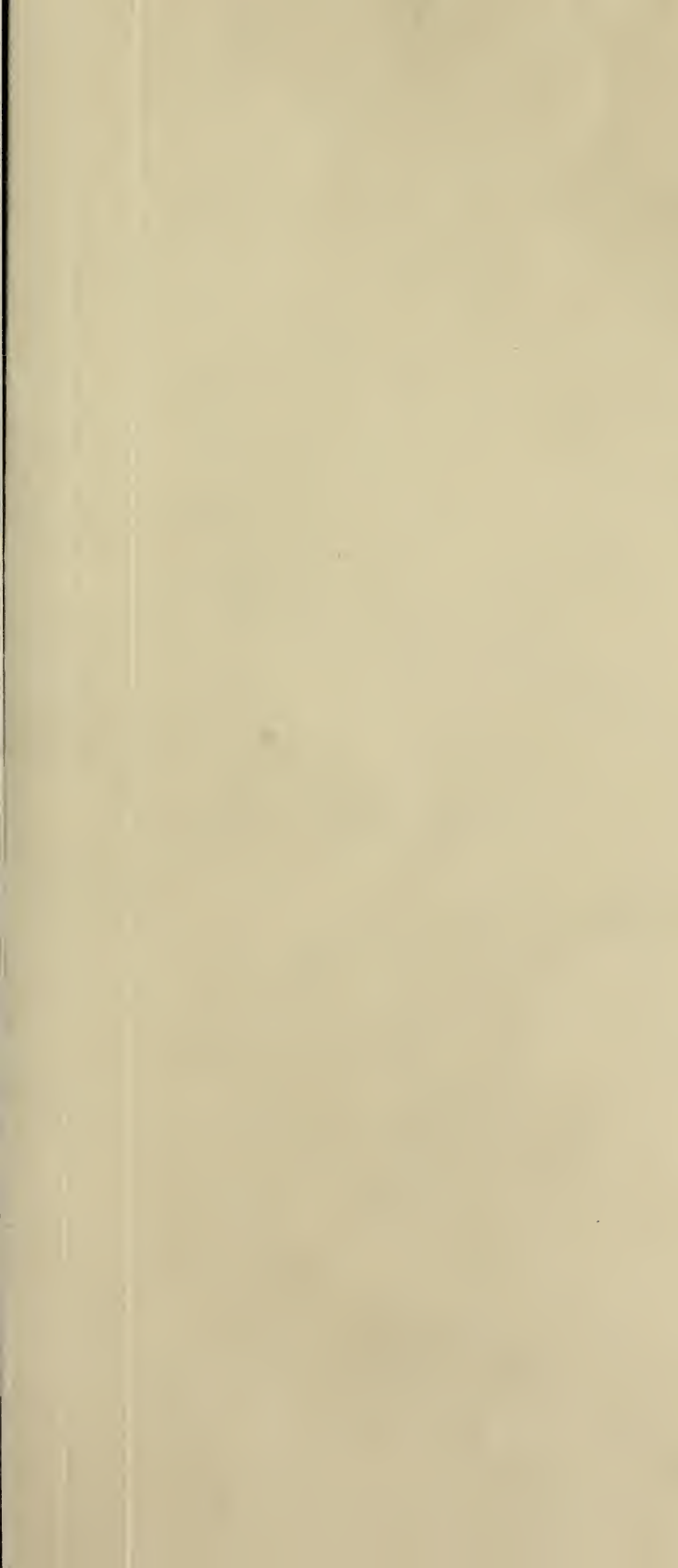
Financial Assistance

CREDIT: As in any industry, the development of forest resources takes capital. When funds for forest management and the expansion of forest resources are not available from conventional sources, see the Farmers Home Administration. This agency makes loans to family farmers.

For further information get "Loans For Forestry Purposes," PA-624, Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

COST SHARING: The Agricultural Conservation Program, in most counties, shares with landowners the cost of carrying out approved cultural practices such as tree planting and timber-stand improvement. For more information on locally approved practices, contact county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) offices.





Special Products and Recreation

The forests in your community can start paying their way long before the young timber is ready for market. Extra dollars can be made in the production and sale of special forest products and in the new and rapidly growing field of outdoor recreation.

Opportunities in special products depend on the area, the kinds of trees and other plants growing there, public demand, available labor, and the season. Small, well-shaped evergreen trees harvested as thinnings after Thanksgiving can be sold as Christmas trees. Evergreen branches obtained from pruning can yield extra income as Christmas greens and wreaths. Pine cones may also be collected and sold for decorations or to a nursery for seed. Nuts, wild berries, maple sirup, and the pine resins used for naval stores are just as much crops as are grain and cotton.

Outdoor recreation is booming all over America. Public facilities cannot take care of present demand. Many privately owned forests are ideal for commercial development as sites for public picnicking, camping, swimming, or winter sports. Small charges for daily hunting and fishing privileges, and leases to sportsmen's groups can also bring extra income to woodland owners.

Well-planned development of such local commercial outdoor recreation opportunities can bring tourist dollars to individual landowners and to area businessmen, and strengthen the economy of rural communities.

More information can be found in "Forest Recreation For Profit" AIB-265, and "Special Forest Products For Profits," AIB-278, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.





Help Build Your Area's Future

Remember the resources of your woodlands when planning your area's future. Make sure your Rural Areas Development Committee gives them full consideration. For help in planning multiple-use programs for your forest lands and in fitting them into your overall economic plan, contact the forester on your Technical Action Panel, your District Ranger, National Forest Supervisor, State Forester, or State-employed service forester.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1968—O-309-942



